

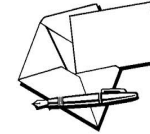


Papaver Orientale
- Oriental Poppy

**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

June 2019 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

I can be one of those people who gets absorbed into things very easily. If something takes my interest, I will read about it, research it, and engage with it to the best of my ability. I sometimes(!) can become a bore about it. I think though that it's also a sign that I can get enthusiastically involved with something, that means something to me.

So it is with running. I have gone from being someone who couldn't run for a Bus in 2016, to being someone who is now in training for my second Half-Marathon - yes folks, I'm doing it all over again! This time it's the Great North Run, and it's a real "Passion Project" - it was this one that I used to mutter about doing one year to my Mum, who died back in 2012 - seven years later, I will finally be on the start line. I'm doing this for me - I'm not looking for sponsorship, but if people want there to be a cause, then all I'd say is donate to the local Hospice and let me know - not amount, just that you have. And I'm sure it will take a long time for me to shut up about it.

One of the charges thrown at John Wesley by contemporaries was that he was "An Enthusiast" - that he was too passionately interested in faith, in God. He was happy to describe himself as a "Reasonable Enthusiast" - that faith made sense to him (and, he believed, for others), and that he was inspired by that faith to speak out. This is the tradition that we are part of; I pray that our collective enthusiasm for the Gospel will continue to shine through at St. Johns.

God Bless

Rob

BIBLE MONTH

This is now the third year that the Methodist Church has encouraged all churches to participate in Bible Month. This year, it is the New Testament, Paul's letter to the Colossians. This book is only four chapters long. Our preachers will cover these on the Sundays in June, except for the 9th June, which is Pentecost Sunday.

If you miss a Sunday coming to church, you can keep up by reading a chapter. You might find it helpful to read the book first anyway, as this may assist you in getting more from the services.



TEA & COFFEE ROTA for June

2nd: Nancy Millington & Chris Crowther
9th Hazel & Mike Nimmo
16th Brenda Aumeer & Helen Trigg
23rd Linda Jenkins & Sarah Lunt
30th Eileen Grunner & Lynn Fowler



Steward's Letter

Dear All,

As BREXIT rumbles on at least our project is coming to an end. This has been the biggest contract ever carried out on our church in the last 140 years. We owe Jim a great deal of gratitude for the time and effort he, with the help of many others, has given to the task of pushing it to a conclusion.

After 4 months of work the builders, after a number of deadline dates have come and gone, are all but finished. How many of you have ever stopped to look at the foundation stone? It was laid in October 1877 and the church was opened in April 1879. A total of only 18 months to build this magnificent building. Just look at all the timber in the roof and all the stonework – and no help with mechanical diggers and cranes. I am sure they did not have time to talk to each other and they certainly did not have mobile phones.

After over 20 years we have done it. The steps are no more, the ramps are in place and ready for use, and we will not have to use the loo door (bungalow door) except as an emergency exit. Thankfully, we will not have to squeeze past the communion rail and around the narrow left and right hand turns into the vestry, down into the Long Room and up into the Guild Room.

The new door, complete with glass panels and fancy draught excluders has been a big job as it was so far through the wall and fireplace. The fireplace has taken up residence under the floor for someone to find in maybe 100 years' time. What will they think?

The carpenter has lowered the floors in the transept area so that we have fewer trip hazards. The plumber has removed much of the cast iron pipework, including about 22 joints, many of which were leaking, and replaced them with 2"/50mm copper pipes. The organ is back in action and it seems to have suffered no ill effects from the dust and/or rest.

Looking from the new doorway you can now see and appreciate the archways in the chapel in a way we have not been able to before. We can admire the east window as we come into chapel from the Long Room - also as we go out, we can look and admire the stained glass in the west window. How many faces can you see in this window?

Phase 1 is almost complete, but we must keep on raising funds to pay off the cost of the extra work. Last Sunday we held our AGM, chaired by Rev. Malcolm Lorimer, when he said we should think about wills as a way of fundraising. I see in the press that a gentleman has been selling tickets for his own funeral. I believe he has raised £500,000 for his charity.

Spring arrived early this year, but plant sales have been poor. I think that it is because the builders have been working at the chapel and that my plant stall has, therefore, not been by the exit of the Long room and you have not been able to make the impulse buy in the same way as you all do when you go to Bridgemere for a coffee!

And finally:- This is the 15th year that Ruth Mulliner has been organising the Midday Concerts. We must all join and thank her for all the work she has done over the years. Long may it continue. We must also thank Chris Crowther and team for providing the ploughman's lunches.

God Bless,

Maurice

Christian Aid

The 2019 Counting Day will take place on 3rd June from 1:30-4pm and 7-9pm at St. John's. If you are able to help please let me or Briony know.

Helen Trigg



Spick and Spanners for June 2019

6th Chris Crowther, Dot Charlesworth &
Lynn Fowler

20th Helen Trigg, Brenda Aumeer & Rachel
Dimelow



Using Collection Envelopes

The envelopes for the next year have been issued to those who currently take them. But I will happily issue a set to others.

Using the envelopes is a way to ensure that you maintain regular giving. It goes without saying that running the church is just the same as running our own homes. They are both there every week even if sometimes we are not. While it has not been the practice to let people know their annual envelope giving, I have been asked for it by a number of members. In light of this I will be letting envelope users know their annual amount for 2018/19 (bearing in mind this information is confidential to you!)

If you are a taxpayer you might also wish to sign up for Gift Aid. I know some people may not understand the rules and I will gladly explain them to you.

Our church is looking great following all the work and the only way to maintain it and meet all the other running costs is by regular giving. If at all interested get in touch!

Mike Nimmo

THY KINGDOM COME

The Spring Connexion magazine, included a small A6 booklet entitled 'Nine Days of Prayer', some spare copies are on the table at the back of church. It is written to be used during the nine days between Ascension on the 30th May and Pentecost on the 9th June. Starting late! It can be used at any time! It is inviting us to pray for God's Spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God's love with others and to pay attention to how God is speaking to us today.

OUTING TO LLANDUDNO on Sat 13th July

Each year St. Alkmund's runs a parish trip to Llandudno. This year they are extending the invitation to the other churches in the town. The coach leaves Whitchurch at 9.00am and sets off back from Llandudno at 4.00pm. The time in Llandudno is free for you to do as you wish.

To book: please ring Sheila Chase or Revd Judy or put your name on the list at the back of St Alkmund's Church

Cost: £10 / adult; £5.00 / child but church children free.

This has to be paid in advance. Payment by cash please – if before the day, in a marked envelope through the Rectory door or given to a St Alkmund's Church Officer.

On the way back from Llandudno, there will be a raffle in aid of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust as well as a collection for the driver.

Easter Offering 2019

Thank you to all who contributed to this year's Easter Offering during April. You donated a grand total of £157 which was presented, along with donations from all the other churches and chapels in our circuit, at the special Easter Offering service at Hospital Street, Nantwich, on Sunday 19th May.

"Spring being a tough act to follow,
God created June."

- Al Bernstein (1950-) American sportscaster, writer, stage performer, recording artist, and speaker.

Pray, Think, Act Meeting - Advance Notice

The next meeting of the Pray, Think, Act Group is on Thursday 11th July at 7.30 at Glebe House (Michael & Ruth Mulliner's home). As always, everyone is very welcome to join us - we would love to see you there. At the meeting we will be discussing the following:

- Prayer Initiatives - triplets & prayer chain
- Worship Review - gathering thoughts, views & insights
- Healthy Churches Questionnaire - September

If you are not able to make the meeting, we would really value your prayers. As we have said before, prayer is work just as much as practical action!

Please do speak to me if you have any questions, or would like to discuss in more detail.

Jenny Marston

Cafe Church

The next Café Church will be held on Thursday 27th June at 7.30 at church - all very welcome. The discussion question is "Are Christian freedoms under threat in the UK?"

*"Many folks want to serve Jesus -
but only in an advisory capacity"*

Dr. Calvin McCutchen – Pastor Emeritus of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony for the 'Access for All' Project is taking place at 2,30pm on Saturday 29th June and you are all invited. Rev Michael Parrott has kindly agreed to speak and Mr Reg Hall will cut the ribbon! There will be an exhibition of the Church history and another one of the current work as it progressed. Light refreshments will be served and donations of cakes/scones would be gratefully received. Please take an A4 sheet from the back of Church, giving you further details of how you can help and also let us know whether you are able to attend. Please put the RSVP slips in the box at the back of Church.

FUNDRAISING!

Jumble / Nearly New Sale 10 -12 am Saturday 6th July (See poster on next page).

Please start collecting clothing, shoes, bags and bric-a-brac for our sale to raise money to repay the loan for the building work. Nearly new items will be hung on rails and jumble will be heaped on tables. Small electrical items that work e.g. lamps will be PAT tested by Lyn before the sale. Bags of Items can be brought to church from Sunday 30th June but if you need to clear them sooner or want them collected speak to Briony or Lyn. Items not sold will be donated to Charity Shops. Offers to help on the day or set up on Friday 5th July would be much appreciated!

Art Show Friday 9th & Sat 10th August

There will be an Art Show again this year on Fri 9th & Sat 10th August. If you are able to help with setting up on Thurs 8th August or with teas and coffees or on the door during the show, please speak to Dot Charlesworth.

SALE

JUMBLE and NEARLY NEW
Saturday 6th July 10am-12

Tops Trousers Skirts Coats
Jackets Dressing Gowns
Swimwear

Jumble

Windsmoor Jack Wills
Hollister Zara Next M&S
Debenhams

Ladies

Ralph Lauren Calvin Klein
Superdry Next Zara M&S

Men



Bags Shoes Boots
Jewellery

Accessories

China Glass Lamps
Books Jigsaws

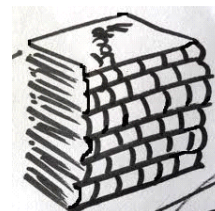
Home

St John's Methodist Church Whitchurch
(the one by Iceland!)

Entry £1 includes tea or coffee

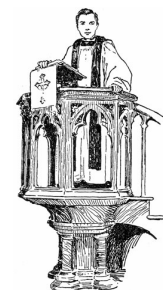
Book Stewards for June

2nd	Nancy Millington
9th	May Arthan
16th	Sarah Lunt
23rd	Sheila Walwyn
30th	Susan Davies



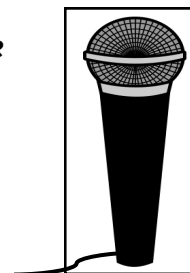
JUNE SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S

2nd	Rev. Jenny Arthurs
9th	Jenny Smith
16th	Dr. Geoff Dickinson
23rd	Brian Faulkner
30th	Margaret Gleave



Sound System Operators for June

2nd	Andrew Fawcett
9th	David Whiteley
16th	Mike Nimmo
23rd	Gordon Davidson
30th	Gordon Davidson



The award-winning
Shrewsbury Amateur Operatic Society
present:

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

SAOS are setting Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd-Webber's remarkable musical in the contemporary world.

Follow Jesus and his disciples as they fight against political corruption and betrayal.

Watch live performances of all your favourite songs including *I Don't Know How to Love Him*, *What's the Buzz*, and of course *Superstar*.

An evening of emotionally charged theatre, proving that the Easter story is still relevant today.

June 12th-15th 2019
PERFORMANCES WED-SAT 7.30PM, SAT MATINEE
2.30PM

TICKETS £21 - £13

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

*Maya Angelou - poet, historian, author, actress, playwright
& civil-rights activist*

Access for all (Hebrews Chs. 9 & 10)

How can I be alone with God?

The Ark of the Covenant was not a symbol of God's presence to Old Testament Israel. Neither was Jesus a symbol of God's presence in the New Testament. 'Jesus' - 'Emmanuel' - 'God with us' - 'The Word made flesh' is not a symbol. GOD WAS 'IN CHRIST' RECONCILING THE WORLD UNTO HIMSELF.

God says in Exodus 25 v 18-22 "I WILL MEET WITH YOU, I WILL COMMUNE WITH YOU". The emphasis and essential here, is "I".

God wants to meet with us and speak with us today - Leviticus 16 v2 "I will appear in the cloud" - not a symbol, not a picture - but God himself.

So, the Ark of the Covenant was the place of intimate communion with God, where God met His people, where he revealed the glory of His PRESENCE, where he spoke face to face with His people. This was the climax of spiritual experience - you or I - alone with God.

The Holy Place was for all priests - but in the "Holy of Holies", that innermost sanctuary, behind the Veil, was the only personal individual fellowship and communion with God.

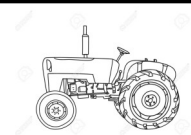
Now that we have 'Access for All' to enter our church at St. John's, how this challenges us to spend more time 'Alone with God'. Because of all that our Saviour Jesus has done for us on the Cross, we may now go beyond the Veil, now torn in two, right into the brightness of His Glory, right into the Holy of Holies, and at any time

to have intimate fellowship with God our Father. Hebrews 10 22-6 Access is for All – worship now means personal involvement – we no longer just watch worship – We Worship. No greater privilege exists today in our lives than to commune and have fellowship with God in worship, together or alone.

Please support and pray for our Worship Committee (see Lucy) and Pray, Think, Act Committee (see Jenny), as we seek God's will in worship.

Michael (Mulliner)

Open Farm Day



Graham and Rachel Dimelow invite you to come and find out about their work at Chorlton Old Hall Farm (Chorlton Lane, Chorlton Malpas SY14 7ES) on 10th June between 5pm and 8pm. See Rachel to book a place.

Flowers Rota for June 2019

<i>June 2nd.</i>	<i>Sheila Walwyn</i>
<i>9th.</i>	<i>Ruth Dawson</i>
<i>16th.</i>	<i>Rosamond Rawson</i>
<i>23rd.</i>	<i>Beryl Posniak</i>
<i>30th.</i>	<i>May Arthan</i>
<i>July 2nd.</i>	<i>Sheila Latham.</i>



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH
MEETING on 26th May 2019

Chair: Rev Malcolm Lorimer (ML)

Secretary: Briony Myles-Hook

Present: List in file

Meeting opened at 11.38am with welcome and prayer.

Apologies : Ruth & Michael Mulliner, Helen & Vic Trigg

Minutes of the General Church Meeting held on 6th May 2018
were agreed by the meeting and signed by Rev. Malcolm Lorimer as
an accurate record.

Matters Arising not covered elsewhere - None

Election of Stewards :

Maurice Latham (July 2013) (Snr. Steward)

Avril Bradfield (July 2013)

Peter Shingler (May 2016)

Brian Faulkner (May 2018)

The above stewards were thanked by ML and re-elected unanimously.

Election of Representatives to Church Council

The current Representatives were thanked by ML and re-elected unanimously:

Derek Morris (2011) Andrew Fawcett(2015)

Michael Mulliner (2012) Audrey Darlington (2016)

Rachel Dimelow (2018)

Mike Nimmo (May 2019) was proposed by Brian Faulkner, Seconded by Briony Myles-Hook as an additional church representative and elected unanimously.

Representatives to Circuit Meeting: For information purposes. Peter Shingler (as representative for Church Treasurer), **Maurice Latham & Briony Myles-Hook. Brian Faulkner** also attends as Synod rep.

Reports:

Reports were distributed as a booklet before the meeting. ML thanked all contributors for their roles in the life of the church. All reports were reviewed and accepted by the meeting with the following additional comments.

Finance Report

Brian Faulkner

BF emphasised that collections are down and we will need to fund-raise to balance the books Mike Nimmo drew attention to the envelope scheme to ensure regular giving even when not attending a service. Rachel Dimelow reminded people of the importance of gift aid and suggested that tokens be available to put in the collection bag. for those giving through standing orders. This will be looked at by BF and MN. Malcolm Lorimer suggested leaving a legacy to the church.

Stewards Report

Maurice Latham

ML reiterated the need for another steward.

Property & Finance

Peter Shingler

PF reported that both boilers are now operational again.

Refurbishment Report

Jim Walwyn

*JW reported that **Phase 1** has been completed apart from the coping stones and handrails and the final snag checklist. He is delighted with the work and the way that it enhances the building as well as encouraging people to ask questions. We continue to **fundraise** to repay the money borrowed from the circuit to complete the project. **JW** announced that he is standing down and that someone else will be needed to oversee **Phase 2** when the interior is refurbished to improve facilities and create new opportunities for worship.*

Jim was thanked for his hard work with a round of applause.

Worship Committee

Lucy Chidlow

***LC** added to her report by encouraging everyone to think about how the spaces inside the church could be used for worship and inviting feedback to the Worship Committee.*

Family Committee Report

Dorothy Faulkner

Events Report

Chris Crowther

Network Report

Chris Crowther

Churches Together in Whitchurch

Avril Bradfield

Pastoral Report

Hazel Nimmo

Safeguarding Report

Briony Myles-Hook

***BMH** asked that anyone interested in assisting Rob Weir with Safeguarding could speak to **Hazel Nimmo** and **ML** asked for people to pray about this as it is a very important role.*

Christian Aid

Helen Trigg

Traidcraft

Helen Trigg

Junior Church

Helen Trigg

Pray Think Act

Jenny Marston

***JM** reported that Pray Think Act is focussing on our **Mission Statement** with particular emphasis on developing our spiritual life through teaching and prayer. A number of **prayer initiatives** including a prayer chain and prayer triplets will be starting shortly. Those who followed the **Book Review** in the newsletter or at Tuesday Fellowship found it helpful and there is an opportunity for someone to come up with another. PTA are carrying out a **Worship Review** jointly with the Worship Committee and they will report back on this at the October Church Council Meeting. There will be a church survey in the Autumn, following up on the survey 7 years ago, as it is important for a healthy church to regularly evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.*

Café Church is continuing in Rob Weir's absence, with the first two sessions on *Persecuted Christians (May)* and *Christian Freedoms in the UK (June)* led by Jenny and Lucy. ML volunteered to lead a session and other volunteers were invited to speak to Jenny or Lucy.

Parents & Toddlers Group Report

Janet Lees

AOB: None

Meeting closed at 12.10 with members saying the Grace to one another.

Stewards and Worship Leaders for June

<i>June 2nd.</i>	<i>Pete Shingler</i>	<i>Rachel Dimelow</i>
<i>9th.</i>	<i>Avril Bradfield</i>	<i>Rachel Dimelow</i>
<i>16th.</i>	<i>Brian Faulkner</i>	<i>Lucy Chidlow</i>
<i>23rd.</i>	<i>Maurice Latham</i>	<i>Lucy Chidlow</i>
<i>30th.</i>	<i>Pete Shingler</i>	<i>Rachel Dimelow</i>

*"It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses,
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
And pleasant scents the noses."*

The Month of June — Nathaniel Parker Willis (1806-67)
American author, poet, magazine writer and editor.

PRAYER REQUESTS



St John's

Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's.

Give thanks for the successful completion of the disabled access and pray that the opening ceremony will be an encouragement to all those who attend.

Pray for those known to us personally who are in any kind of need: particularly members of St John's who are ill, house-bound, in care, lonely or bereaved.

Ask that the Pray, Think, Act Group will be instrumental in moving us forward spiritually, according to God's will and purpose, and not according to our 'good ideas'. Pray that the worship review will supply us with the feedback we need to further enrich our worship. (Do get involved in the review!)

At this time of Pentecost, when we celebrate the gift of God's Holy Spirit, let us ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit afresh on us, His Church, so that we will be renewed and refilled, and equipped to be His witnesses in our families, our town and our nation.

During Bible Month, when preachers will be focusing on the book of Colossians, ask the Holy Spirit to teach us, as individuals and as a church, what He would have us learn from this wonderful portion of Scripture.

Pray for our minister, Rob Weir, that his time on sabbatical will be time well spent and that he returns to ministry refreshed and renewed by the Holy Spirit.

Our nation

At this time of confusion and turmoil let us bring our nation before God in prayer:

Pray that MPs be given fresh vision and unity that they may work together for the good of our nation rather than from selfish ambition or other motives.

Pray that God will guard our freedom of speech and freedom of belief, and that Christians will be given understanding, perseverance and courage to stand up for, and defend our faith.

Our World

Thank God for the very many good things happening in our world, things that we often take for granted. Remember that God is Sovereign Lord over all and that His plans and purposes will prevail, even though in the short term it may not seem like it.

Pray for all those affected by recent natural disasters (people who are no longer in the news, but still suffering) and ask that aid agencies, especially Christian ones, will be able to offer appropriate help both now and in the longer term.

Pray for Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ. The success of the BJP party in the recent Indian election could very well result in the marginalisation of the country's minorities, particularly Christians. Pray that God's love and comfort will strengthen these Christians and that His Presence will be very close to them. Ask the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of Prime Minister Modi and the BJP government towards religious minorities. Pray for those who are doubly vulnerable because they are from the 'wrong' faith and the 'wrong' social status, such as Christian Dalits and women.

Regular Church Activities

Mondays 9:30-11:30am Parents & Toddlers (Term time)

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm: Bible Study at 7 Queen's Road

2nd/4th Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at 7 Queen's Rd.

2nd Wednesday of the month - 2pm: Bible Study at St. John's

4th Thursday of the month - 7:30pm: Cafe Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 2nd June 4.30pm Leaving Service for the Chair of District,
Rev. Peter Barber, at Alsager Methodist Church

Monday 3rd June 1.30pm and 7-9pm Christian Aid Counting

Wed. 5th June: Last Midday Concert (White House School Choir)

Mon. 10th June Open Farm 5-8pm at Chorlton Old Hall Farm.

Wednesday 12th June 7pm Church Council

Thursday 27th June 7:30pm Café Church

Saturday 29th June 2:30pm 'Access for All' Opening Celebration

Saturday 6th July 10-12 Jumble/Nearly New Sale at St. John's

Thursday 11th July 7:30pm Think Pray Act at Glebe House

Saturday 13th July St. Alkmund's Llandudno Outing

Friday/Saturday 9/10th August Art Show at St. John's

July/August 2019 Newsletter

Please let Jim Walwyn have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 23rd June.

Inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine does not imply an endorsement of the products or services of the advertiser by St. John's.

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Taxi!

The following drivers are available during June to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

2nd	Sheila Latham
9th	David Whiteley
16th	Hazel Nimmo
23rd	Avril Bradfield
30th	Brian Faulkner



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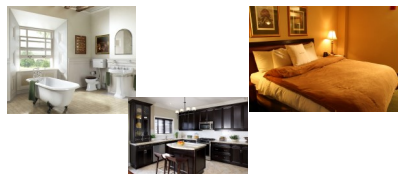
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WALKERS

